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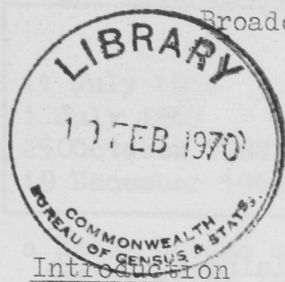
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RETAIL PRICES AND WAGE RATES, DECEMBER QUARTER 1969

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

The Consumer Price Index measures quarterly, for each State Capital, the variations in prices of commodities and services which affect a high proportion of the expenditure of wage-earner households. Commodities and services included in the index are food, clothing, drapery, home ownership, rent of houses and flats, fuel, light, furniture, household appliances and supplies, fares, motoring, tobacco, cigarettes, beer, cinema, radio and television licences, newspapers, postal and telephone services, hairdressing, dry cleaning, medical and health services, and various other items.

The various commodities and services have been combined into groups, and group indexes are available for Food, Clothing and Drapery, Housing, Household Supplies and Equipment, and Miscellaneous.

The indexes measure price movements in each city individually. They do not provide a comparison of the retail price level in any city with the retail price level of any other city. The base of the index for each city and for the weighted average, six State Capitals, is year 1966-67 = 100.0. Group indexes also have separate bases for each group.

December Quarter 1969

There was an increase of 0.7 per cent in the Brisbane Consumer Price Index from September quarter 1969 to December quarter 1969, the index number for All Groups rising from 107.2 to 107.9. For the twelve months ended December 1969 the All Groups increase was 2.5 per cent.

From September quarter 1969 to December quarter 1969 the Consumer Price Index increased in all State Capitals. Percentage increases were as follows: Sydney, 1.1; Perth, 0.9; Melbourne, Brisbane, and Hobart, 0.7; and Adelaide, 0.4.

Since the base year, 1966-67, the rise in the retail price level has been greatest in Sydney and smallest in Adelaide. Percentage increases from 1966-67 to December quarter 1969 were as follows: Sydney, 9.6; Perth, 8.7; Melbourne, 8.3; Hobart, 8.1; Brisbane, 7.9; and Adelaide, 7.3. The rise in the weighted average for the six State Capitals was 8.7 per cent. (It should be noted that these figures merely indicate rates of price rises in separate cities and do not represent in any way the relativities of actual price levels in the different cities.)

A brief outline of the movements of the various group indexes for Brisbane between September quarter 1969 and December quarter 1969 is given below.

Food Group

The Food Group index increased from 106.2 to 106.9, a rise during the quarter of 0.7 per cent. While price increases were recorded for potatoes, onions, bread, and soft drinks, these were partly offset by a decrease in the price of eggs.

Clothing and Drapery Group

Increases in the prices of men's and women's clothing and footwear were responsible for the rise of 1.1 per cent in the Clothing and Drapery Group. The index increased from 105.8 to 107.0.

Housing Group

The Housing Group index increased by 0.3 per cent, from 112.7 to 113.0.

Household Supplies and Equipment Group

There was no change in this group, the index number remaining at 105.2.

Miscellaneous Group

The Miscellaneous Group index rose from 107.9 to 108.5, an increase of 0.6 per cent. The rise was chiefly attributable to increases in the prices of newspapers, health services, and shoe repairs.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATE WAGE RATES

Commonwealth and State wage rates are reviewed by the appropriate industrial authorities from time to time and details of basic wage rates (which used to be determined in part by price movements) were shown in issues of this Bulletin up to March quarter 1967.

Commonwealth Rates

The Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in June 1967 decided to eliminate basic wages and margins from its awards and to introduce the concept of a "total wage" to operate from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after 1 July 1967. The last basic wage declaration was that operative from 11 July 1966 when the male rate in Brisbane became \$31 per week.

Since the introduction of the "total wage" concept, award rates for adult males and adult females working under awards of the Commonwealth Commission have been increased by \$1 per week from 1 July 1967, \$1.35 per week from 28 October 1968, and, following the hearing of the National Wage Case, 1969, by 3 per cent as from 19 December 1969 (excepting for adult males in receipt of minimum wages who received an increase of \$3.50 per week - see below).

In a decision of 8 July 1966 the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission announced that it intended to grant relief to low wage earners by inserting a provision in awards prescribing a minimum wage for adult males. The weekly minimum wage rate prescribed was the current basic wage rate, which for Brisbane was \$31, plus \$3.75 per week.

Subsequently, the minimum wage has been twice increased when all award rates were raised as described above. The wage applicable to the capital city of each State is set out in the following table.

Minimum Wages, Adult Males: Weekly Rates, Commonwealth Awards

Date Operative ^a	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
11 July 1966 ..	37.25	36.45	34.75	36.05	36.55	37.15
1 July 1967 ..	38.25	37.45	35.75	37.05	37.55	38.15
25 October 1968	39.60	38.80	37.10	38.40	38.90	39.50
19 December 1969	43.10	42.30	40.60	41.90	42.40	43.00

^a Rates became operative from the beginning of the first pay-period commencing on or after the date shown.

State Rates

The concept of a basic wage has been retained by the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. The variations since its inception are published in the Queensland Year Book. Recent variations are set out below.

Queensland Basic Wage, South-Eastern Division

Date Operative	Adult Males	Adult Females
	\$	\$
6 May 1963 ..	28.60	21.45
13 July 1964 ..	30.00	22.50
7 December 1964 ..	30.60	22.95
29 March 1965 ..	30.90	23.20
20 September 1965 ..	31.40	23.55
23 May 1966 ..	32.70	24.55
10 April 1967 ..	33.20	24.90
3 July 1967 ^a ..	34.20	25.90
28 October 1968 ..	35.55	27.25
22 December 1969 ..	36.65	28.05

^a A general award increase of \$1 per week was retrospectively declared to have been part of the basic wage.

Current basic and living wage rates ruling in capital cities of all States are set out in the table below.

State Basic Wages: Weekly Rates

State	Date Operative	Adult Males	Adult Females
		\$	\$
New South Wales	19 December 1969	36.90	28.30
Victoria	1 July 1967	^a	^a
Queensland	22 December 1969	36.65	28.05
South Australia ^b	28 October 1968	34.65	26.55
Western Australia	24 November 1969	36.45	27.88
Tasmania	19 December 1969	36.80	28.20

^a In Victoria, basic wages and margins were deleted from wages board determinations and wage rates expressed as "total wages" from 1 July 1967. The State basic wage was \$32.70 at that date. Since then "total wages" have increased in conformity with increases in "total wages" paid under Commonwealth awards as shown above.

^b An economic loading of three per cent was added to all award rates of pay from 22 December 1969.

State awards in four States include provisions which prescribe minimum rates for adult males similar to the Commonwealth award provisions mentioned above. Current minimum rates operative in these States are set out below.

Minimum Wages, Adult Males: Weekly Rates, State Awards

State	Date Operative	Amount
		\$
Victoria ..	19 December 1969	42.30
South Australia ..	22 December 1969	41.90
Western Australia ..	19 December 1969	42.40
Tasmania ..	19 December 1969	43.00

320-330 Adelaide Street,
BRISBANE 4000

A. W. MUMME
DEPUTY COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN
AND GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

16 February 1970

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning
Brisbane 33 5011, Extension 5675.

Table 1 - Consumer Price Index: Total and Group Indexes, Brisbane
(Year 1966-67 = 100.0)

Period	Food	Clothing and Drapery	Housing	Household Supplies and Equipment	Miscell- aneous	All Groups
<u>Year</u>						
1959-60 ..	80.9	90.5	81.5	95.0	80.6	84.2
1960-61 ..	84.9	93.1	84.6	95.5	83.1	87.1
1961-62 ..	85.2	94.4	86.3	97.0	85.6	88.4
1962-63 ..	84.6	94.6	88.5	96.9	86.3	88.7
1963-64 ..	86.7	95.3	89.2	95.9	86.8	89.6
1964-65 ..	92.2	96.6	91.5	96.8	90.4	93.0
1965-66 ..	98.4	97.8	97.3	98.8	95.5	97.5
1966-67 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68 ..	103.7	102.4	105.8	101.2	103.2	103.3
1968-69 ..	104.7	104.3	109.6	104.3	106.0	105.5
<u>Quarter</u>						
1968: December	104.1	104.1	109.2	104.2	106.1	105.3
1969: March ..	105.1	104.4	110.0	104.7	106.3	105.8
June ..	105.5	105.2	110.7	104.8	106.6	106.3
September	106.2	105.8	112.7	105.2	107.9	107.2
December	106.9	107.0	113.0	105.2	108.5	107.9
Percentage Increase on Previous Quarter						
<u>Quarter</u>						
1968: December	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	0.6
1969: March ..	1.0	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.5
June ..	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.5
September	0.7	0.6	1.8	0.4	1.2	0.8
December	0.7	1.1	0.3	-	0.6	0.7

Table 2 - Consumer Price Index: State Capital Cities
(Year 1966-67 = 100.0 for Each City and for Six State Capitals)

As the base for each city is 100.0, the indexes in the table below do not indicate relative price levels as between cities, but they may be used to compare relative price movements in the various cities.

Period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Weighted Average, Six State Capitals
<u>Year</u>							
1959-60 ..	86.5	85.3	84.2	86.2	84.8	85.6	85.7
1960-61 ..	89.6	89.5	87.1	89.8	87.9	90.3	89.2
1961-62 ..	89.9	89.8	88.4	89.5	88.2	90.7	89.6
1962-63 ..	90.4	89.7	88.7	89.1	88.7	90.7	89.8
1963-64 ..	91.4	90.4	89.6	90.2	89.8	91.7	90.6
1964-65 ..	94.5	94.0	93.0	93.9	92.6	94.6	94.0
1965-66 ..	97.7	97.5	97.5	97.0	96.1	98.0	97.4
1966-67 ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1967-68 ..	103.2	103.7	103.3	102.9	102.9	104.6	103.3
1968-69 ..	106.2	106.2	105.5	105.3	105.5	106.1	106.0
<u>Quarter</u>							
1968: December	105.9	106.0	105.3	105.2	104.9	105.8	105.7
1969: March ..	106.7	106.6	105.8	105.5	105.6	106.5	106.4
June ..	107.6	107.2	106.3	106.4	107.0	107.0	107.2
September	108.4	107.6	107.2	106.9	107.7	107.4	107.8
December	109.6	108.3	107.9	107.3	108.7	108.1	108.7

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1969	Oct. 1969	Nov. 1969	Dec. 1969
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
<u>Cereal Products</u>					
Bread, white (unwrapped and delivered)	2 lb loaf	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0
Flour, plain ..	2 lb pkt	15.4	15.4	15.2	15.0
Flour, self-raising ..	2 lb pkt	18.4	18.5	18.2	18.5
Biscuits, wheatmeal ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	17.7	17.6	17.6	18.2
Biscuits, milk arrowroot ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	18.3	18.6	18.5	18.5
Biscuits, dry ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb pkt	18.9	19.2	19.1	19.1
Oats, rolled ..	2 lb pkt	41.7	42.6	42.8	43.0
Rice ..	1 lb pkt	14.5	14.6	14.8	15.1
<u>Dairy Produce</u>					
Milk, fresh (bottled, delivered) ..	1 quart	19.2	20.0	20.0	20.0
Milk, powdered ..	12 oz tin	39.9	40.2	40.8	41.2
Cheese, cheddar, matured ..	8 oz pkt	32.7	32.8	32.9	32.9
Cheese, cheddar, processed ..	8 oz pkt	25.3	25.7	25.8	25.4
Butter ..	1 lb	53.1	53.3	53.9	53.9
Eggs (24 oz in carton) ..	dozen	63.7	58.9	58.3	58.3

Table 3 - Average Retail Prices: Food, Brisbane (continued)

Item	Unit	Year	Month		
		1969	Oct. 1969	Nov. 1969	Dec. 1969
<u>Fruit and Vegetables</u>		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Peaches, canned	29 oz tin	32.0	31.7	31.9	31.7
Pears, canned	29 oz tin	32.1	31.7	31.9	31.7
Sultanas	1 lb pkt	37.0	36.7	37.2	37.3
Peas, green, canned	15½ oz tin	20.5	20.5	20.9	20.8
Peas, frozen	10 oz pkt	26.3	26.6	26.6	26.6
Potatoes	1 lb	5.0	5.1	4.9	4.5
Onions	1 lb	8.8	10.2	13.3	12.6
<u>Beverages</u>					
Tea	½ lb pkt	29.8	29.0	29.1	29.3
Coffee, instant	2 oz jar	44.4	45.0	44.9	42.9
Cocoa	8 oz pkt	34.3	36.0	36.1	36.1
<u>Other Food (excluding meat)</u>					
Sugar	4 lb pkt	42.2	41.9	42.6	42.1
Jam, plum	1½ lb tin	26.4	26.7	27.0	27.4
Jam, marmalade	1½ lb tin	28.6	29.1	29.4	29.4
Honey, liquid	16 oz jar	27.1	27.8	27.0	27.6
Peanut Paste	12 oz jar	42.9	44.7	45.3	44.2
Beans, baked, canned	16 oz tin	16.6	16.4	17.2	17.5
Spaghetti, canned	16 oz tin	16.6	16.3	17.2	17.5
Margarine, table	1 lb	39.8	40.0	40.0	39.9
Sauce, tomato	10 oz bottle	22.6	22.9	22.9	21.9
Pickles, mustard	10 oz jar	24.2	24.0	23.5	23.5
Sardines, Norwegian	3¾ oz tin	16.8	16.9	16.7	16.9
Salmon, Australian, canned	16 oz tin	43.2	43.4	44.0	44.0
Soup, tomato	16 oz tin	18.0	17.9	17.9	17.6
			Quarter Ended December 1969		
<u>Meat</u>					
Beef, rib, roast (without bone)	1 lb	53.9		54.4	
" , steak, rump	1 lb	81.2		81.7	
" , steak, chuck	1 lb	50.3		50.7	
" , steak, blade	1 lb	60.7		60.8	
" , sausages	1 lb	27.5		28.1	
" , silverside, corned	1 lb	57.0		57.7	
" , brisket, corned	1 lb	42.4		42.6	
Mutton, leg	1 lb	34.2		34.2	
" , chops, loin	1 lb	32.1		32.3	
" , chops, leg	1 lb	33.7		33.7	
Lamb, leg	1 lb	49.9		50.4	
" , chops, loin	1 lb	51.9		52.0	
" , chops, leg	1 lb	52.0		51.9	
Pork, leg	1 lb	60.2		60.5	
" , loin	1 lb	59.1		60.3	
" , chops	1 lb	59.3		60.6	
Bacon, rashers, pre-packed	½ lb	49.5		50.3	